

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

2/24/78
BI 040A

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

February 24, 1978

General Jorge Rafael Videla
President
Republic of Argentina
Buenos Aires, Argentina

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

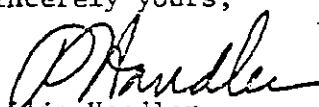
Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to address this communication to you and send it via Dr. Christian B. Anfinsen and Dr. Robert P. Perry, two members of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, who are visiting Argentina on behalf of the Academy's Committee on Human Rights. That Committee is concerned with the rights of scientists the world over, particularly those who have disappeared, are imprisoned, or whose rights have been proscribed.

Over the past six months your Ambassador in Washington, Dr. Jorge A. Aja Espil, has been most helpful to our Committee whenever we have had questions regarding specific Argentine scientists. We believe that we understand the Argentine situation better because of our discussions with him and with Argentine scientists who have visited Washington and from the report of Mr. E. Q. Daddario who visited in Argentina a few months ago. We hope that they also have a better appreciation for the concerns of North American scientists regarding the pursuit of scientific research and its relation to questions of human rights.

In addition to this expression of satisfaction for the continuing dialogue with officials of your Government and with Argentine scientific colleagues, this letter will request your personal intervention in the case of the young physicist Elena Sevilla, currently held under your executive power at Villa de Voto Prison. Her circumstances have great anxiety here in the United States. The Department of Physics at Cornell University has offered her an opportunity to pursue advanced studies and research at that university. I hope that you will give positive consideration to this special request for her release and permission for her to go to Cornell University.

Sincerely yours,


Philip Handler
President

cc: His Excellency Jorge A. Aja Espil

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